(v) Quality of rails have been improved.

(vi) In service testing of rails through ultrasonic flaw detecting machine is being done to detect defects in rail before they grow to failure size.

To avoid accidents due to human error, modern methods of training are being utilized for imparting training in Zonal Training Schools. Periodic safety drives are also launched to test the alertness of staff.

Gauge conversion from Samastipur to Saharsa

†3911. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to convert narrow gauge lines from Samastipur to Saharsa into broad gauge is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the lines are meter gauge and not narrow gauge.

(b) Work on gauge conversion of Mansi-Saharsa-Dhauram Madhepur section is in progress.

Gauge conversion of Samastipur-Khagaria section was included in the Railway Budget with the proviso that work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances. Action for obtaining their clearances has been initiated.

(c) Does not arise.

Handing over the ticket distribution to private sector

†3912. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.